

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMMAN BEIRUT JIDDA KHARTOUM

LONDON MOSCOW TEL AVIV TRIPOLI TUNIS USUN FROM CAIRO

16 APR 73:

QUOTE CAIRO 1130

EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. APRIL 15-16 CAIRO PRESS HAS GIVEN MAJOR COVERAGE TO
ATTACK ON SIDON REFINERY. AHRAM' S SUNDAY EDITION STATES
THAT OPERATION WAS " MYSTERIOUS" AND FOLLOWS IN LEAD ARTICLE
WITH CONFLICTING NEWS STORIES OF EVENT AND DENIALS BY FEDAYEEN
OF COMPLICITY IN AFFAIR. OTHER PAPERS GENERALLY FOLLOW SAME
LINE. MONDAY, APRIL 16, AHRAM LEADS WITH STORY ABOUT
DISPUTE BETWEEN FEDAYEEN AND LEBANESE ARMY OVER RESPONSIBILITY
FOR INCIDENT. ALL CAIRO PAPERS PUBLISH CLAIMS OF GOL AND
FEDAYEEN, ALTHOUGH AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA TEND TO GIVE MORE
WEIGHT TO ARAFAT' S DENIALS OF PALESTINIAN COMPLICITY IN AFFAIR.
GUMHURIYYA EDITORIALIZES THAT US' S DANGEROUS PLAN, AS EVIDENCED
BY US PARTICIPATION IN ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRUT AND SIDON
REFINERY (SIC) , AND US BLASTING OF TAPLINE DEPOTS, IS AIMED
AT STRIKING PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE BY DRIVING WEDGE BETWEEN
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IT AND OTHER ARAB STATES SUCH AS LEBANON AND SAUDI ARABIA.
(COMMENT: OTHER THAN THIS AND ONE OTHER EDITORIAL (ALSO
IN HUMHURIYYA), EGYPTIAN PRESS PUBLICATION OF FEDAYEEN
ALLEGATION RE US COMPLICITY IN BEIRUT RAID HAS ABATED. FOCUS
OF PRESS ATTENTION HAS SHIFTED OVER WEEKEND TO LEBANESE/
PALESTINIAN ISSUE, UPCOMING UNSC DEBATE, QADHAFI' S PROPHET' S
BIRTHDAY SPEECH, AND OTHER EVENTS.)

2. APRIL 16 PRESS NOTES THAT EGYPTIAN COS SHAZLI
RETURNED APRIL 15 FROM TWO- WEEK VISIT TO PRC AND NORTH KOREA,
DURING WHICH HE REPORTEDLY VISITED USS PUEBLO. SHAZLI STATED ON
RETURN THAT VISIT TO PRC WAS NOT OFFICIAL, BUT HE WAS
GREETED WARMLY DURING HIS STOPOVERS THERE; HE ADDED THAT MORE
VISITS TO " LIBERATED" COUNTRIES WOULD OCCUR.

3. NEW MILITARY DECREES HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO PROTECT FARMER
FROM PROFITEERING AND ABUSE. DECREES WERE ISSUED BY MININT
SALEM, RELATE TO DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS, FERTILIZERS, ETC.,
AND SALE OF FARM PRODUCE.

4. ARAB CHIEFS OF STAFF WILL REPORTEDLY MEET APRIL 21
IN CAIRO.

5. POSSIBILITY OF US MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ME IS RAISED
BY AKHBAR ARTICLE APRIL 16, DRAWING ON REPORTS OF US
OFFICIAL ELMER BENNET' S REMARKS. AKHBAR SAYS THAT BENNET' S
STATEMENT IS INTENSIFICATION OF US PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE ON
ARABS AND WONDERS IF IT IS MEANT TO TEMPT WESTERN STATES TO
SUPPORT US ENDEAVORS TO PUT ARAB OIL UNDER HER DIRECT CONTROL.

5. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR SAYYID MARI' I DEPARTED FOR KHARTOUM
APRIL 15 .

6. QADHAFI' S PROPHET' S BIRTHDAY SPEECH IS FRONTPAGED IN ALL
PAPERS. AHRAM EMPHASIZES REMARKS THAT UNITY WITH EGYPT IS
A LIFE OR DEATH MATTER, AND GIVES PROMINENCE TO QADHAFI' S
STATEMENT THAT LIBYA SHOULD BE FREE OF DEVIATIONISTS, THAT
FREEDOM SHOULD BE FOR ALL AND NOT FOR THE FEW, AND THAT IF
LIBYAN PEOPLE CANNOT ACHIEVE MAIN POINTS OF THE REVOLUTION
THEN HE WOULD TAKE HIS LEAVE. WILEY UNQUOTE ROGERS

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